THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

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PRESS RELEASE

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS
IN THE CARIBBEAN: MITCH EPSTEIN PHOTOGRAPHS

March 15 - May 26, 1991

Photography Gallery 105

In the Caribbean: Mitch Epstein Photographs at The Cleveland Museum of Art is a new exhibition of approximately twenty luminous images New York photographer Mitch Epstein created over the last five years. For more than a decade, Epstein's work in color has been dazzling viewers with its rich tones and striking compositions. It could be said that the Caribbean itself has a similar, though even longer-established reputation. The exhibition owes its strength to this color, and to the unique perspective the photographer's eye gives us on the Caribbean island communities that exist behind the "paradise."

Epstein's work displays a particular sensitivity to the values and daily life of common people and to how they fit into the world around them. The images included in the exhibition range from expansive compositions setting human figures against dramatic landscapes to small-scale studies of group interaction. Much of the work is tinged with irony; in *Sunday Cricket Match, Grenada 1987*, for instance, a group of spectators, high on a hillside overlooking the game, enjoys a picnic in a cemetery, the handy tombstones serving as bleachers and buffet. Another, entitled simply *Grenada 1987*, depicts a local boy with a fishing pole sitting on the damaged wing of a Soviet-made biplane.

Before focusing on the Caribbean, Epstein created a large body of acclaimed work based on his experiences in and around India, including two books of photographs and four films. The feature film *Salaam Bombay!*, for which Epstein was co-producer and art director, received the *Camera D' Or Prize* at the 1988 Cannes Film Festival. His photographic work is represented in the permanent collections of major museums throughout the country. This exhibition was organized by Tom Hinson, curator of contemporary art.

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For more information: Please contact the Public Information Office at **The Cleveland Museum of Art**
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